

# TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

---

## MEETING SUMMARY October 09, 2025 – 10:00 A.M. Houston- Galveston Area Council of Government Virtual Teams Meeting

---

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Citizens Transp. – Dexter Handy  
H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis  
Harris County Transit– Ken Fickes  
TCEQ – Sarah Thomas  
Baytran– Amy Skicki  
METRO– Vincent Sanders  
City of Sugarland– Melanie Beaman  
TxDOT Houston– Brenda Bustillos  
Air Alliance Houston– Alex Spike  
City of Galveston– Mike Varela  
University of Houston– Donna Kacmar  
The Woodlands Township– Shelley Sekula -Gibbs  
TSU– Gwendolyn Goodwin

### **ALTERNATE PRESENT**

University of Houston – Bruce Race  
TxDOT BMT – Colton Johnston  
EDF– Grace Lewis  
Citizens’ Transportation Coalition– Shondra Wyal  
H-GAC – Pharr Andrews  
City of Galveston– Robert Winiecke  
TxDOT Houston – Qing Li  
The Woodlands Township – Ruthanne Haut  
METRO – Jesus Gutierrez  
TCEQ – Elizabeth Sartain

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Houston-Galveston Area Council – C. Marshall  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Rosa Harris  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Jackie Pittman  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vishu Lingala  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gloria Brown  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ron Papsdorf  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Rania Mohamed  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vinny Polignano  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Yetunde Oyewale  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Stephen Keen  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Bennie Chambers

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Meredith Jennings

a. The TAQ Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with action's items; discussion items were presented; and the meeting concluded with agency reports and no member announcements.

b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

ITEM 1A. Introductions

## **ACTION ITEMS**

ITEM 2A. Meeting Summary approved-(09-09-2025).

ITEM 2B.-2045 Project List Update-(2025-2028 TIP and Supporting Air Quality Conformity Analysis)  
**Approved -Motion passed**

Andrew DeCandis opened the session discussing the development of the regional transportation conformity determination. Stephen Keen presented the 2045 RTP update, detailing the review of over 1,000 projects, the fiscal constraints of \$131 billion in expenditures against \$141 billion in revenues, and the categorization of projects based on their significance and readiness for construction.

Andrew DeCandis discussed the transportation conformity process, which ensures that regional transportation projects do not worsen air quality. He noted that the analysis conformed to the budgets for ozone precursors and mentioned a public comment period that received limited feedback. DeCandis requested the TAQ subcommittee's recommendation for the TAC to approve the UPWP resolution for regional conformity determination.

## **DISCUSSION**

A. Clean Air, Healthy Communities Update- (Meredith Jennings, H- GAC)

During the meeting, Meredith Jennings provided an overview of emissions sources including stationary fuel combustion, grid electricity, and transportation and emphasized the need for targeted strategies to reduce environmental impact. She introduced five opportunity menus designed to help agencies adopt cleaner air initiatives, with specific strategies focused on renewable energy, waste reduction, sustainable agriculture, and transportation efficiency. Jennings also highlighted the Clean Air Action Plan, noting its voluntary nature and phased approach to support counties in improving air quality. Bruce Race raised concerns about challenges stemming from existing federal and state policies and encouraged a more proactive stance to achieve better outcomes. The discussion concluded with a shared recognition of the importance of linking air quality improvements to overall community health.

B. Houston Regional Air Quality Summit Update- (Vinny Polignano, H- GAC)

Vinny Polignano reported on the successful Houston Regional Air Quality Summit, which took place on September 24th with over 100 attendees. The event included three plenary sessions and six breakout discussions, covering topics relevant to public health, industry, and community action. Feedback from participants was positive, and planning for the next summit in 2026 is already underway.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

ITEM 4A. Agency Announcements

Please complete the CPRG survey form. You have one more day to submit comments on the Transportation Conformity Determination. The form can be found at [h-gac.com/transportation/conformity/2025](http://h-gac.com/transportation/conformity/2025). Andrew has

requested that all members provide their input to ensure that everyone's opinions are represented.

ITEM 4B. Member Announcements  
None

**Next Meeting:** December 3, 2025

**ADJOURN**  
**MENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 P.